

## Idæidæ.

63. *Hyria grataria*, Walker.

♂. Flew on board, Pagan, Irrawaddy river (lat. 21° 12' N.), on the 13th January at 9 P.M.

64. *Idæa*, sp. ?

Sheemagar (lat. 22° 19' N.), December 1885.

A worn specimen of a species which I have been unable to identify.

## Microniidæ.

65. *Micronia aculeata*, Guén.

♀. Flew on board, Sheemagar, above Mandalay (lat. 22° 19' N.), on the 12th December at 8 P.M.

XXI.—*Note on Orbitolites italica*, Costa, sp. (*Orbitolites tenuissima*, Carpenter). By HENRY B. BRADY, F.R.S.

IN the paragraphs relating to the distribution of *Orbitolites tenuissima*, in the "Report on the Foraminifera of the Challenger Expedition" (p. 214), attention is directed to certain figures in Costa's "Paleontologia del Regno di Napoli" ('Atti dell' Accademia Pontaniana,' 1856, vol. vii. pl. xvi. figs. 26-28), as follows:—

"*Orbitolites tenuissima* has not hitherto been recognized as a fossil species; nevertheless Costa has figured two specimens which seem to place beyond question its existence in the later Tertiaries of Southern Italy. The drawings referred to are named *Pavonina italica*, and it is impossible to compare them with those in pl. xv. of the present Report, especially with fig. 7, or with the central portion of one of the figures given by Dr. Carpenter ("Report on Orbitolites," pl. i. fig. 1), without the conviction that they are taken from specimens with almost precisely identical characters, although the former, like many of Costa's illustrations, are somewhat lacking in detail. The fossil shells are obviously only fragments, a circumstance sufficiently accounted for by the extreme tenuity of the test." To which is appended the following footnote:—"The author states that specimens are not uncommon in the Tertiary marls of Reggio; it is therefore pro-

bable that the species will be found again in the same or similar deposits. Should the view which I have taken prove correct, the specific name '*italica*' will of course take precedence of '*tenuissima*.' Costa himself appears to have been in great doubt about the Foraminiferal nature of the organism, and suggests that it may even belong to the vegetable kingdom."

Before the publication of the Challenger Report I had been in correspondence with my friend Prof. Seguenza, of Messina, the recognized authority on all matters connected with the palæontology of Southern Italy and Sicily, not less on Microzoa than on the larger fossils, but he was unable at the time to furnish any information on the subject of Costa's figures. Early in the present year, however, I chanced to be myself at Messina, when I again brought the question under his notice; and subsequently, on looking over a collection of Tertiary rock-specimens, he discovered on the fractured surface of one a discoidal fossil bearing a strong resemblance to the drawings referred to. He was kind enough to give me the specimen, and its examination since my return leaves no kind of doubt that it belongs to the species described in the '*Paleontologia*,' and, further, that it is identical with the *Orbitolites tenuissima* of Carpenter. The rock is a friable limestone largely composed of Microzoa, and by splitting it carefully fragments of two or three other examples of the same form have been obtained. The fact that the species has not been observed more frequently in Tertiary deposits is no doubt due to the extreme fragility of the shell, and to the process of disintegration, by washing and otherwise, to which fossil material is generally subjected as a preliminary to microscopical examination.

We have now two localities for *Orbitolites italica* as a fossil:—Seguenza's specimens are from the Upper Miocene of Castanea, near Messina; Costa's were from the Tertiary marls of the mainland opposite, namely Reggio, in Calabria. It is interesting to note that the species is still living at many points in the Mediterranean, and that it has been dredged in comparatively shallow water, 100 to 200 fathoms, near the coast of Sicily.

I may add that I have placed the specimens given to me by Professor Seguenza with the collection of Foraminifera exhibited in the Natural History Museum, South Kensington.

Savile Club, Piccadilly,  
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